

April 2015

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# Garden Views



## Anyone trying to deal with grasshoppers?

By Karen Bradford, Master Gardener

When I was a child, my mother counted on my sharp eyes to find tomato hornworms and other well-camouflaged troublemakers before they could do damage in her garden. Hornworms were ugly, but the absolutely worst creatures were the grasshoppers, with the constant fear of never knowing if they'd land on me!

Even into my adulthood, I still wouldn't touch grasshoppers!!

Most of the questions or complaints I've fielded have concerned gophers, but a recent question involved keeping grasshoppers out of the garden. I always look for and try to use the least toxic and most environmentally sustainable gardening solution to a problem, so can you anticipate the answer to this question? Chickens or geese!!

If you could buy or borrow some chickens or geese, they would do an EXCELLENT job of controlling those pesky pests. The only disadvantage is that goose poop is slimy, and chickens scratch up the ground looking for bugs. This would be particularly annoying if you've already nicely mulched your plants. However, if you can corral your "assassination squad" away from any areas you want to preserve, then your problems may be quickly solved!

One especially nice thing about these creatures is that they work all the time they're awake. They are alert since they are biologically programmed to search out insects, and their hunger increases their diligence. Their poop is an organic, long-acting fertilizer, although chicken manure should not be used raw on plants as its nitrogen content is too hot in that stage. (It is highly desirable as it ages and can be made into a manure tea or used to heat up the decomposition process in your compost pile.)

Chickens can be very beautiful and even charming as pets. Our youngest son had many geese (greylag and African varieties), and they were excellent as surveillance teams in our yard. They thoroughly intimidated dogs, strangers and the telephone repair guy who needed access to the back yard.

And did I mention the eggs?

## Myrtle Creek Botanical Gardens

By Beverley Scray, Master Gardener

This botanical garden is in Fallbrook, off Reche Canyon Road. It makes for a wonderful day trip with lots of shade, enough sun, open spaces, and history of this area in San Diego County. The Sherman family has owned this property forever, it seems. In earlier days it was simply Myrtle Creek Nursery. Before that, it was a stagecoach stop with an inn for those traveling a distance. On a recent visit, however, I learned that a younger generation of the same family has brought this space into the 21st century.

In addition to the nursery, unique gift shop, and Café Bloom, the Shermans have set aside land for a wild bird sanctuary, butterfly and hummingbird gardens. The old Fallbrook Barn houses 3 curious goats that are always ready to eat, even your hat if you get too close. Their Plantation Home is being remodeled and expected to open to the public this summer. It is a replica of a Georgian Manor House since this family are descendants of General William Tecumseh Sherman of our Civil War days. The home is situated on a huge plot of green lawn with a massive oak tree to provide shade for the wrap around porch.

There is actually a creek running through the property. Although mostly dry at this time, it does provide just enough water to sustain a patch of wild grapes. Our docent, Chase, explained that within a few weeks the buds would burst and soon small but edible grapes would supply food for all the wild creatures that are allowed to roam free. This natural space adds to the uniqueness and the pleasure of visiting these gardens.

The Café Bloom is just getting started. Their menu consists of locally grown foods, lots of salads, wraps, and pies made of locally grown berries and apples. The dining space is on a patio covered with umbrellas. It is simple fare and saves visitors from having to leave the gardens to find somewhere to eat. My guess is that the café also will be upgraded as time goes by.



The total experience of visiting the gardens and well-stocked nursery was great -- a step back to a simpler more natural time. Our docent, Chase, explained the holistic approach of the new owners which was music to my ears.

To get more info go to [discovermyrtlecreek.com](http://discovermyrtlecreek.com); call 760 728 5340; or visit the gardens at 2940 Reche Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028.



## Janet's Jottings

Janet Hartin, UC ANR CE Environmental Horticulture Advisor and MG Program Director San Bernardino and Riverside Counties



March has been an exciting and busy month for the UC ANR Riverside County Master Gardener program! I continue to be impressed with all of the activities going on throughout the county. These activities include the recent Speaker's Bureau training, Grow Lab and UCR Plant Sale activities, booths at Farmer's Markets, and all the other educational events. A big thanks to all you volunteers as well as the Riverside and Desert Advisory Committees for all the dedication and hard work to make the program what it is today!

Just a reminder that I posted several Power Points and PDFs of Riverside and Coachella Valley 'Drought Toolkit' materials in VMS. They can be found under documents that we covered during the Speaker's Bureau training in both places. Feel free to make them your own by adding your own personal touches! Also, just a reminder that we are hosting a drought workshop at the UCR Palm Desert campus on Saturday, April 18th from 8:30-12:30 that is open to the public. If you'd like to help staff the information booth or help with setup please sign up in VMS.

And, last but certainly not least, below are some photos from the March 25th Desert Master Gardener graduation ceremony at Moorten Botanic Garden in Palm Springs. Congratulations graduates (most of you already had your required volunteer hours in!).



## Planting at the Ranch

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Thank you to Master Gardener, Lana Hapeman, for opening up Hapeman Ranch on March 21, 2015. MGs and members of the public toured the property and gleaned information about planting tomatoes, strawberries and even raspberries! Hapeman Ranch sits on 2.5 acres above the Santa Ana River basin. Decades ago, the Ranch was a working walnut orchard and remnants of that era were evident. Some walnut trees remain, but over a hundred other fruit and nut trees are actively cultivated, including pecans and the exotic hazelnut (filbert) trees.



Walnut Huller



Hazelnut Katkins in Spring

The grounds also contain a large pond with teeming catfish. The pond's water is used for irrigation.



Within the ranch property, Riverside resident and "Urban Farmer," Scott Berndt, established Fox Farm in 2014. Scott has tended a cool and warm season vegetable garden on nearly a third of an acre. He also planted a bulb garden with thousands of iris, daffodils and other spring flowers.

Scott demonstrated the basics of planting various types of tomatoes, strawberries and raspberries. Then we all got into action - put on our gloves, grabbed our spades, and planted 1300 of these delightful and delicious fruits in about an hour. We received free plants and lunch for our efforts!!



Master Gardeners



Scott Brandt Demonstration



Pat Robertson and Dan Rork. Done!!



Healthier Living

During our visit, a member of the Riverside Food Coop provided information about its mission to connect local farmers to local shoppers; make good quality food convenient and affordable; and honor the farming history that gives our food its roots. For example, members can purchase a crop box filled with Pinkerton avocados from Glen Ivy Farm; Swiss chard, escarole, and eureka lemons from Fox Farm; Red Russian kale from Sage Mountain Farm, etc. [www.riversidefoodcoop.com](http://www.riversidefoodcoop.com). Also the Grow Riverside group presented information about its second annual convention coming in June 2015. [www.growriverside.com/](http://www.growriverside.com/)



UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER  
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Eta Takele - County Director  
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|             |              |
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| Grow Lab    | Marco Baldi  |
| JMDC        | Dona Jenkins |
| IT Team     | Bill Reid    |

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
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| Tours                        | Sheila James      |
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| WMWD Landscape Garden        | Karen Fleisher    |

#### Desert Area Coordinators:

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chair                       | Larry Fechter           |
| Co-Chair                    | Tom Stansbury           |
| Secretary                   | Marie Strom             |
| Trainee Class               | Larry Fechter           |
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| New Projects/Events         | Angela Fasano           |
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| UCR Palm Desert Garden      | Janna Calkins           |

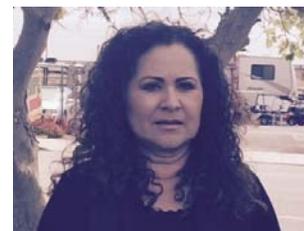
Garden Views: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>  
Facebook: Google UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners

The Garden Views newsletter publishes nine editions per year, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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Pauline Pedigo  
Pat Robertson  
Beverley Scray

### Note from Rosa



Congratulations to the third Desert Master Gardener class. They celebrated their graduation at Moorten Botanical Garden on March 25th. We had a great turn out and 16 of the 26 trainees received their official MGP badge. We enjoyed a beautiful day in the garden with fabulous food and great company. I also had opportunity to tour the garden with two awesome tour guides, Augustin and Janna. Thank you for all the wonderful information, who knew desert plants were so interesting! A special thank you goes to the committee who organized the event!

The next training class is in the planning stages. If you know anyone interested in becoming a Master Gardener have them contact me. The information sessions are coming soon.

Please note that reappointment is coming. All Master Gardeners will be notified in June via VMS to submit reappointment paperwork. Reappointment policy in the UC Master Gardener handbook states that in order to retain active status a MG Volunteer must apply for reappointment during a 60 day period between June 1 and July 31st. We are working on making it easier to pay the dues and insurance online through VMS. More details to come.

Remember that part of the reappointment process MG must complete 25 hours of volunteer work and 12 hours of CE. This information must be enter in VMS, I noticed that many MGs have not entered their hours. Take the time to enter your volunteer hours and CE hours.

**MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public**

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| April                 |   |  |
| 1st, 15th             | Temecula Farmers Market   | 8:30 am - 1:00 pm                          |
| 1st                   | Palm Desert Farmers Market  | 3:45 pm - 8:00 pm                          |
| 2nd                   | Vegetable Gardening with Children                                     | 9:00 am - 12:30 pm                         |
| 2nd                   | Riverside Training Class - Backyard Orchard Culture                   | 9:00 am                                    |
| 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th | Palm Springs Farmers Market   | 7:45 am - 12:30 pm                         |
| 4th, 18th             | Hemet Farmers Market  | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm                          |
| 6th                   | WMWD Garden Committee Meeting   | 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm                          |
| 7th                   | Veterans Class - Rose Culture an Excursion                            | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm                        |
| 8th                   | Edible Landscape - Murrieta Library                                   | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm                          |
| 9th                   | Desert Area Committee   | 10:00 am - 11:30 am                        |
| 11th                  | Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Eastvale           | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm                         |
| 11th                  | WMWD Docent Day   | 8:30 am - 12:00 pm &<br>12:00 pm - 2:30 pm |
| 11th                  | City of Corona DWP Garden Festival                                    | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm                         |
| 11th                  | Give Bees a Chance!   | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm                        |
| 12th, 26th            | La Quinta Farmers Market  | 7:45 am - 12:30 pm                         |
| 12th                  | Desert Horticultural Society 10th Annual Garden Tour                  | 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm                         |
| 12th                  | Explore the Medical Plants of UCRBG                                   | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm                          |
| 14th                  | Murrieta Garden Club - Info Table                                     | 9:00 am - 11:00 am                         |
| 14th                  | UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation                             | 9:00 am - 11:00 am                         |
| 14th                  | Edible Landscape - Murrieta Garden Club                               | 9:30 am - 10:30 am                         |
| 15th                  | Advisory Board Meeting  | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm                          |
| 16th                  | Riverside Training Class - Landscape Design: Sustainable Landscapes   | 9:00 am                                    |
| 16th                  | Attracting Humming Birds and Butterflies to the Garden                | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm                        |
| 18th                  | Water Conservation Festival   | 8:00 am - 1:30 pm                          |
| 18th                  | Keeping Plants Alive During Drought Workshop                          | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm                         |
| 18th                  | Pre-tour Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tour              | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm                          |
| 21st                  | Riverside Community Hospital Earth Day Event - Info Table             | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm                        |
| 23rd                  | Lunch and Learn - Cal IPC - California Invasive Plant council         | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm                         |
| 23rd                  | Gold Miner Committee Meeting  | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm                          |
| 23rd                  | Environmental Expo and Earth Day Fair - Info Table                    | 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm                          |
| 25th                  | Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Hemet & No. Corona | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm                         |
| 25th                  | RCRMC Spring Garden Tour - Pre-tour                                   | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm                         |
| 25th                  | UCR Botanic Gardens Keep Our Gardens Clean and Beautiful              | 8:15 am - 11:30 am                         |
| 25th                  | Temecula Rose Show Info Table   | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm &<br>12:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| 25th                  | Santa Rosa Plateau Garden Tour/Party                                  | 9:30 am - 5:00 pm                          |

## Notes from the Desert: Scarecrows, Orchids and Cactus

By Mary Ann Egan, Master Gardener

The Coachella Valley, at the intersection of the Mojave, Sonoran and Colorado deserts, is a veritable hotspot of breadth and diversity. Perhaps inspired by the diversity of the Valley's geography, the Desert Area branch of the Riverside County Master Gardener program has offered a broad range of projects and tours in the last few months.

**Garden scarecrows:** A new crop of scarecrows now festoon the fence surrounding the vegetable garden at Agua Caliente Elementary School in Cathedral City. Each spring the students and the parents have the opportunity to imagine, craft and bring scarecrows to the school's vegetable garden. Scarecrows of all shapes and sizes stand patiently in their designated spots for a year, making a happy, colorful background to the vibrant green of the vegetables sprouting from the planting beds. The students plant seeds and seedlings each year in the fall, visit the garden periodically while the vegetables are growing and then, in the spring, harvest and eat the vegetables they have grown. This on-going Vegetable Gardening for Children program was started 7 years ago by Master Gardener Cathy Liss. It is an on-going learning experience for the school's students and remains under Cathy's caring, dedicated direction. Space for the garden was provided by the school and the "slow food" organization provided the necessary funds. The parents and grandparents of the kids donated the time and labor to build and install fencing, raised planting beds, an irrigation system and a tool shed. The garden offers the primarily-Hispanic student body of the school a learning resource that very few elementary schools in the area have available. Cathy Liss states that this project would not be sustainable without the support of the Master Gardeners who volunteer there to work with the kids.



**Orchids in the desert:** As bizarre as this may sound, Desert Area MGs recently headed to the high desert to learn how orchids are grown. The Gruber Orchards located in the community of Landers has 155,000 square feet of orchid-growing greenhouses for production. No newcomers to the orchid business, the Grubler family's history of growing orchids goes back four generations. The



Grubler's were drawn to the high desert by the clean air, good water quality, sunny location, four-season climate and the need to expand from the much smaller nursery in Temple City. They purchased an existing tomato greenhouse facility in 1975 and converted it to an orchid-friendly environment. Revamped and modernized after an earthquake devastated the greenhouses in 1992, the Grubler Orchid facility in Landers contains an impressive and colorful array of orchids of all kinds. Baby orchids, growing contentedly for 2 years in small glass containers, reside alongside their mature brethren which can grow to more than 4 feet tall. This facility, open to the public, is a nirvana for all orchid-lovers, Master Gardener or not. For more information about the nursery, visit their website at "[www.grublerorchids.com](http://www.grublerorchids.com)."

**Cactus and Succulents:** The Desert Area Master Gardeners have started giving docent tours of Moorten Botanical Garden in Palm Springs. The Garden, a privately owned arboretum open to the public, is a Palm Springs Historical Landmark. It was founded in

**MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public**

|            |   |                    |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| 25th       | City of Perris - Health and Wellness Fair | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| 25th, 26th | Riverside Flower Show and Garden Tour     | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| 25th       | Pechanga Earth Day - Info Table           | 10:15 am - 3:00 pm |
| 29th       | Proper Care of Trees                      | 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm  |
| Daily      | Indio Call Center                         |                    |
| Daily      | Phone Squad - Riverside                   |                    |
| Saturdays  | Grow Lab                                  |                    |
|            |   |                    |

**Notes from the Desert Continued...**

1938 by "Cactus Slim" and his wife Patricia, and is still owned by their son Clark Moorten. The Garden contains more than 3,000 varieties of cactus, succulents and desert plants from around the world. It also sports a collection of rare plants housed in a temperature-controlled "cactarium." The docent-led tours are offered every day except Wednesday, when the Garden is closed to the public. The tours give Master Gardeners an opportunity to share their knowledge of the unique and fascinating plants of the world's desert regions and the challenging environments in which they live. This educational offering is a source of pride for the Desert Area MG's. The desert MG program just graduated its third class (yea!!) and now has sufficient trained veterans to staff daily docent tours. To find out about the tours and hours of operation, contact the Garden at (760) 327-6555 or by clicking on the appropriate link on the website "moortenbotanicalgarden.com."

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!**

Janine Almanzor

Kay Anders

Phyllis Ardary

Leslie Birkett

Pat Cawunder

Grethe Cox

Carol Haffter

Matt Johnson

Patricia Johnson

Shawna Kleiman

Sandra Leoni

Joni Meagher

Julie Northway

Jodi Pinhero

Patty Reiter

David Meyer-Reith

Lucia Robles

Tom Shea

Helga Stafford

Tom Stansbury

Sandy Symington

Gloria VanDerAarde

Kathryn Warner

## Western Municipal Water District Workshops

Western Municipal Water District and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Riverside County Master Gardener Program have teamed up to hold three free gardening workshops in the coming months. The workshops will be presented on the second Saturday of each month in Western's water-efficiency garden, Landscapes Southern California StyleSM in Riverside. The garden is located at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd, at the corner of Mission Grove Parkway. It's open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 11, 2015, 11 a.m. to noon. "Give Bees a Chance." Successful gardeners know that bees are among the best helpers in the garden. Pollinating fruit trees and crops is their job. No bees mean unpollinated flowers won't set seed or form fruit. Chris McDonald, the desert natural resources advisor with the UCCE, will share his knowledge of attracting and encouraging all bees.

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 11 a.m. to noon. "Gophers and Squirrels and Moles... Oh My!" National Public Gardens Day is May 8... continue with the celebration and knowledge-seeking by attending this helpful workshop. As much as gardeners encourage wildlife visitors to their yards, certain animals can cause severe damage to plants and crops. Susan Sims of the Sims Tree Learning Center will lead this workshop.

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 11 a.m. to noon. "Experts in the Garden," a multitude of experts will be on hand throughout the water-wise grounds eager to share their knowledge about a particular gardening subject.

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